

# FACT SHEET

May 2001

## **Public Availability of Second External Peer Review Draft of "Air Quality Criteria Document for Particulate Matter"**

The Second External Review Draft of the EPA document "Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter" (EPA 600/P-99/002aB, bB) has recently been made available for public comment (April 12, 2001 to July 12, 2001). After the 90-day public comment period, the draft PM Air Quality Criteria Document (PM AQCD) will be reviewed by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) at a public meeting in Research Triangle Park, NC on July 23-24, 2001. A preliminary draft PM Staff Paper, "Review of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Particulate Matter," will soon (early June) be made available for public comment and will also be reviewed at the same CASAC meeting. The CASAC meeting will be announced in a *Federal Register* notice.

CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS. Airborne particulate matter (PM) is one of six major air pollutants regulated under the Clean Air Act by NAAQS. The Act requires periodic review of the scientific bases underlying the NAAQS and revision, as appropriate, of the NAAQS for PM and the other five air pollutants. The draft PM AQCD is a revision of the EPA PM AQCD published in 1996, which provided scientific bases for the current PM NAAQS set in 1997 (including new PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards).

CONTENT OF THE DOCUMENT. This Second Draft PM AQCD incorporates revisions made in response to earlier public comments and CASAC review of the First External Review Draft. It assesses scientific information pertinent to PM criteria development that has become available since the 1996 PM AQCD. This includes approximately 1800 new references which appeared in published, peer-reviewed literature since the October 1999 First Draft PM AQCD. This includes about 140 papers published from the January 2000 "PM 2000 Meeting" and numerous other papers generated by scientists in ORD Research Laboratories as part of EPA's Intramural PM Research Program, as the result of PM research funded by ORD's Extramural Grants Program, and by the EPA co-sponsored Health Effects Institute, as well as published research by other U.S. and international scientists.

### DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION.

- Volume I presents information on atmospheric science aspects and PM monitoring methods; sources, emissions, and ambient PM concentrations; welfare effects (i.e., impacts on vegetation, natural ecosystems, visibility, man-made materials, climate change processes); and human exposure.
- Volume II assesses epidemiologic studies of effects on human populations; dosimetry; and toxicologic (controlled human exposure and experimental laboratory animal) studies. Volume II also includes an integrative synthesis that brings together key findings from the other detailed sections.
- An Executive Summary, under preparation, will be completed after CASAC review of the detailed and integrative synthesis chapters for incorporation into the final document.

AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT DOCUMENT. Printed copies of the External Review Draft of the revised EPA PM AQCD (EPA/600/P-99/002aB, bB) are available upon request from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications (Phone: 1-800-490-9198) or from the National Center for Environmental Assessment, RTP Division (Phone: 919-541-3637), which can also provide a CD-ROM electronic version upon request. Internet users may obtain a copy at (<http://www.epa.gov/ncea/>).

